

What's New in the City



City of Natchitoches



Family Events Planned for May 7—9

May 1, 2015

Volume XV, Issue 5

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Did you know?

- The Cane River Green Market is open every Saturday through July 25th from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank. Come shop local vendors of fresh produce, value-added products and handcrafted items. SNAP, Credit and Debit Cards Accepted. Free Zumba classes, demonstrations, kids' activities and live music are also available every Saturday. For more information, call (318) 352-CRGM.
- The Church Street Bridge will be closed Friday, May 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a routine bridge inspection.
- The Natchitoches Fire Department will be conducting hydrant flow testing during the month of May. Testing is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 4th.
- The Louisiana Main Street Program is now accepting applications for 2015-2016 Redevelopment Incentive Grants to encourage revitalization of historic downtown commercial properties in designated Main Street districts. For more information, call (318) 352-2746.
- Artists are being sought to design the 2015 Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster. Deadline to enter is June 26, 2015. For more information, call (318) 357-3838.



The City of Natchitoches has several events to get families geared up and ready to go for the summer and school year ahead. All events are free and open to the public.

Events begin with Summer Splash on Thursday, May 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center. Summer Splash is an informational

fair that highlights summer activities offered throughout the city and parish for children of all ages. Local groups will distribute information and registration forms for a variety of summer programs including Vacation Bible School, summer camps, athletic camps, art camps, summer reading programs, swimming lessons and more! Booth space is free for any organization wishing to distribute information on summer programs. For more information on Summer Splash, please contact the Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746.

On Friday, May 8th, the Natchitoches Recreation

and Parks Department invites you to celebrate the re-opening of Breda Town Park with fun activities, bounce house, hot dogs, popcorn and basketball on the newly improved basketball courts.

The celebration will take place at Breda Town Park located at 1320 Dixie Street from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Dallas Russell at (318)



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6th Annual Cane River Music Festival May 9th

The Cane River region has a rich tradition of live musical performance. The community was once home to numerous juke joints and dance halls, where farmworkers could enjoy an evening of live Creole music, blues, jazz or early rock and roll. In honor of this tradition Cane River Creole National Historical Park will be hosting the 6th Annual Cane River Music Festival at Oakland

Plantation on May 9. This event is free to the public.

This year's lineup promises to be the best yet. Among this year's performance includes blues harmonica/guitar player Ed Huey. Ed performs and teaches American Roots Music specializing in early Blues guitar and harmonica styles. His highly interactive sets include Work Songs, Field Hollers, Hambone, Piedmont Blues, Delta Blues,

Jug Band, Hokum, and Railroad Songs.

For the third year in a row the event will feature the locally renowned LaCour Trio. The LaCours are sure to get the crowd moving with their energetic blend of zydeco, jazz and funk.

Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys will be returning for their 6th appearance. Thibodeaux has recently been recognized by

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Family Events (cont.)

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238-7508.

On Saturday, May 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., all families of children ages 0—4 years are invited to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Community Center for Childcare and Preschool Programs Information and Enrollment Day. Parents will be able to learn about childcare and preschool programs and options in the area. Parents should bring their child(ren)'s birth certificate, Social Security card, proof of residency and immunization record to enroll. The event is sponsored by the Natchitoches Parish Early Childhood Care and Education Network. For more information, please call (318) 352-2358

Computer Classes Offered at Natchitoches Parish Library

The Natchitoches Parish Library will be offering basic computer classes part one and two on May 5th and May 7th at 10:00 a.m. The classes will also be offered May 19th and 21st, also at 10:00 a.m., in the computer lab on the second floor of the library located at 450 Second Street. Anyone interested should call the Natchitoches Parish Library to register for the class. Space is extremely limited so be sure to register as soon as possible.



The Basic Computer Use class will be offered as two hour-long courses. Part I will cover the terminology for common parts and user interface elements, how to navigate in the desktop environment, launching/closing/minimizing applications, and common website layout and navigation. The use of Microsoft Word will also be covered to

show patrons how they may use templates to create a variety of content and how they can perform basic editing on a document.

Part II will cover internet and computer safety topics such as antivirus software and safe browsing habits. Patrons will also be walked through creating a Gmail account and explanation of how to send and read email. Facebook account creation and use will also be covered.

Anyone interested in registering for the class or for more information can call (318) 357-3280 or visit the Natchitoches Parish Library at 450 Second Street in Natchitoches.

NSU Senior Dance Concert Saturday, May 2



Northwestern State University's Department of Theatre and Dance will present its annual Senior Dance Concert Saturday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

The concert, "The Spirit of the Dance," is choreographed by graduating senior dance students William Applewhite of Little Elm, Texas, Kacey Garrett of Slidell and Caitlyn Whitlock of Stonewall.

Prior to the concert, there will be an invited performance of Joshua William DeAlba's "Manna," which was adjudicated at the American College Dance Association Regional Conference at Austin Peay State University.

"Some of the pieces have a different concept but the same overlying theme. It looks at the spirituality of dance and the

emotions behind it," said Applewhite.

Applewhite, Garrett and Whitlock have put together the entire program, which includes creating the works, casting the show and working with the technical crew.

"It has been different for us," said Garrett. "Normally, I go into a rehearsal ready to learn, but now I have had to know everything about the work when I go in. The faculty have been so helpful by letting us use what we need and being available to provide advice."

Applewhite says the creative process has been beneficial for him. "It has been enjoyable starting with a vision of a piece and taking it through the creative process," he said. "Someone that doesn't know you or your work can go and look at your reel to see what you've done. It's an opportunity most students don't get."

Vote for Natchitoches!

Natchitoches is one of 20 nominees for Best Southern Small Town as selected by readers of USA Today and 10Best.com. Vote daily through May 25, 2015 at <http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-southern-small-town/> and make sure that Natchitoches takes home the title!

**The City of Natchitoches will be closed
Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.**

Cane River Music Festival (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Northwestern State University as a Master Folk Artist and in 2012 he received a Creole Heritage award recognizing his commitment to the Creole culture and staying true to the traditional la-la music associated with the Creoles.

Grammy nominated guitarist Buddy Flett will also be back. Flett has an impeccable resume having played with the likes of Hubert Sumlin and Kenny Wayne Shepherd.

For the first time, the event will feature Cedric Watson & the Mad Minstrels. One of the brightest young talents to emerge in Cajun, Creole and Zydeco (Louisiana French) music over the last decade, Cedric Watson is a four-time Grammy-nominated fiddler, singer, accordionist and songwriter with seemingly unlimited potential.

This will also be the first year with a food vendor. Janet LaCour will be on hand providing meat pies, sandwiches, drinks, and other great food.

The festival begins at 11:00 a.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring folding chairs, picnic lunches, and umbrellas. Oakland Plantation is located at 4386 Hwy 494, Natchez, LA 71456. To reach Oakland Plantation, take I-49 to Exit 127, Flora/Cypress. Head east on LA Highway 120 toward Cypress. Cross over LA Highway 1 onto LA Highway 494. The parking lot and entrance pavilion for Oakland is 4.5 miles east of Highway 1 on the left. Parking is limited so please car pool. For more information, call (318) 356-8441.



Buddy Flett



Ed Huey



The LaCour Trio



Cedric Watson

7th Annual James L. Oliphant Memorial Golf Scramble Saturday, May 9

The 7th Annual James L. Oliphant Memorial Golf Scramble will be held at the Northwestern State University Recreation Complex and Demon Hills Golf Course on Saturday, May 9. Proceeds from the event will benefit the NSU Athletic Association Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The shotgun start will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will include a 4-person scramble, followed by an awards reception and luncheon. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place teams. Featured events will include the longest drive and closest to the hole contests. Registration is \$70 for individuals and \$250 per four-man team.

Participants can register at the golf course or request registration information via email from event organizer Nicole Gray at nsgay@sbcglobal.net or by calling Odell Oliphant at (318) 228-4431. Sponsorships are available and donations appreciated. Checks should be made payable to the James L. Oliphant Memorial Scholarship and can be mailed to 1241 Highway 504, Natchitoches, LA 71457.

The James L. Oliphant Endowed NSU Football Scholarship was established on Oct. 25, 2008, in memory of the beloved high school teacher and coach, who passed away on Oct. 19, 1988, at the age of 33 from complications of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's

Disease. "Jimmy" was a student scholar and all-star athlete at Natchitoches Central High School, as well as a model student and leader while attending Northwestern State University, where he sought to serve humanity both socially and intellectually. He was a charter member of the Theta Lambda Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. After receiving a B.S. degree in physical education from Northwestern in 1977, he taught in the Natchitoches Parish school system until his retirement in 1987.

For more information, please call Hall Adams at (318) 357-6300 at Northwestern Hill Golf Course or Nicole Gray at (972) 897-5357.

Natchitoches Wins District IV Title In Cleanest City Contest Wins Second Place in State Competition

Oldest Permanent
Settlement in the
Louisiana Purchase

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**Congratulations to
the graduates of
2015!**



Photographed (l-r): LGCF President Elect Lena Bateman, LGCF Judge Kathy Bedenbaugh, Mayor Lee Posey, LGCF Cleanest City Chairman Jean Gilstrap and LGCF Judge Cynthia Risinger.

Judges for the Louisiana Garden Club Federation (LGCF) Cleanest City Contest arrived in Natchitoches on Friday, April 10, 2015 to present Mayor Lee Posey with the District IV Cleanest City Contest Award. The City of Natchitoches competed against the cities of Hammond, Houma and Terrytown in the state competition, winning second place behind Hammond.

The City was judged on the following criteria: approaches within city limits; public and/or municipal buildings such as

schools, churches, hospitals, libraries, fire station, City Hall, etc.; parks and recreation areas; business establishments; residential areas; streets, sidewalks, posts and neutral grounds; vacant lots; and community involvement.

The LGCF Cleanest City Contest was established in 1958 as a way to instill civic pride in individual citizens and improve the appearance of villages, towns and cities. The primary goal of the LGCF Cleanest City Contest is to become a litter-free Louisiana. Cities are divided into 10 population categories in 8 Districts.

Upcoming Holidays and Important Events



Every Saturday — Cane River Green Market from 8 a.m. to noon on the downtown riverbank.

May 2: Women's Resource Center Run, Baby, Run 1 Mile Fun Run & 5K Run/Walk, 8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. on the downtown riverbank

May 2: Northwestern State University Senior Dance Concert, 7:00 p.m. at A.A. Fredericks Auditorium

May 4: Historic District Commission meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

May 5: Planning & Zoning meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

May 7: Summer Splash, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00

p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center

May 8: Breda Town Park Re-Opening, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Breda Town Park, 1320 Dixie Street

May 9: Childcare and Preschool Information and Enrollment Day, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the MLK Recreational Community Center, 660 MLK Drive

May 9: 6th Annual Cane River Music Festival, Begins 11:00 a.m. at Oakland Plantation

May 9: 7th Annual James L. Oliphant Golf Scramble, 8:00 a.m. at NSU Recreation Complex and Demon Hills Golf Course

May 11: City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. at

the Natchitoches Arts Center

May 16: Natchitoches Airport Commission meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport

May 21: Historic District Development Commission meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

May 23: Fleur de Lis Arts and Craft Show, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center

May 25: Memorial Day Holiday. City Offices Closed.

May 26: City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

